

of Trimeron.

was glad that either fortune or fate was so favourable, as
to present him so fit to the quiet of his thoughts, for he quoth
the your letter received, and found so enigmatical, as hardly
I conjectured the contentes: yet lone hath made me so good
a scholler to pie into your precepts that I answer as your
conclusion required, if your inward intent follow your out-
ward attempt, that, my hono^r safe, Lacena remains the af-
fured friend of Siluestro: The gentleman hearing the summe
of his desires granted, taking her by the hand, made promise
to performe the deeds whatsoeuer he had protested in words,
and with that Panthia, & the rest took the napping: wher-
upon Peratio at the first sight began thus to descant: you
may see, madam Panthia, that loue is a loadstone, by
the keeping of Siluestroes course, for we hauing sought
Lacena, with of our purpose, and he parting from vs in a
melancholy haine, hath as, directed by destinie, chanced on
her company: a thing forepointed; and therefore not to be
preuented, for loue is such a Lordo, as may not be resisted
with armours, but entertained with amoure. When, quoth
Panthia, you suppose Siluestro, and my daughter Lacena
are in loue: Suppose, madam, quoth Peratio: why haue you
so ill an insight into affection, that you see not their fancies,
which proue soules, they keepe as secrete, as fire in straw: At
this, Panthia looking earnestly vpon her daughter Lacena,
blush, her sisters and the rest began to laugh, which Silue-
stro seeing, made answer, that Peratios conjecture was not
greatly amisse, and therefore, seeing, that the company was
so fitly mette, and the matter so happily motioned, he would
intreate her good will, he might haue her in marriage: Pan-
thia who was passing gladd of this request, asked her daugh-
ter, if she had made any promise to Siluestro: Lacena, who
ment to stand to her tackling, answered, she had conditionally
thought haue her consent. The quoth Panthia, as one wel
contented with your choice, so morow shalbe y^e marriage day,
because the gentleman shalbe witnesses at your wedding: Sil-
uestro vpon this made promise, & y^e next morning, accompani-
ed by the rest of his friends was solemnly married to Lacena.

FINIS.

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FINIS.

PANDOSTO.

The Triumph of Time.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED

by a pleasant Historie, that although by the meanes
of sinister fortune Truth may be concea-
led, yet by Time in spight of fortune it
is most manifestly reuealed.

*Pleasant for age to auoyde drowisie thoughtes,
profitable for youth to eschue other wanton
pastimes, and bringing to both a de-
sired content.*

Temporis filia veritas.

By Robert Greene Maister of Artes
in Cambridge.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulci.



Imprinted at London by Thomas Orwin for Thomas
Cadman, dwelling at the Signe of the Bible, neere
vnto the North doore of Paules,

1588.

not in Auered



TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS HEALTH.



The paultring Poet *Aphranius* being blamed for troublinge y^e Emperour *Traian* with so many Doting Poems: aduentured notwithstanding, stil to present him with rude and homely verses, excusing himselfe with the courtesie of y^e Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as he fondly offerd. So Gentlemen, if any condemne my rashnesse for troubling your eares with so many vnlearned Pamphlets: I will straight shroud my selfe vnder the shadowe of your courtesies, & with *Aphranius* lay the blame on you aswell for frendly reading them, as on my selfe for fondly penning them: Hoping though fond curious, or rather currisb backbiters breathe out slaunderous speeches: yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my trauell, at the least with silence: and in this hope I rest: wishing you health and happines.

Robert Greene.



TO THE RIGHT HO

norable George Clifford Earle of Cumber-
land, Robert Greene wisheth increase
of honour and vertue.



THE Rascians (right honorable) when by
long gazing against the Sunne, they be-
come halfe blinde, recouer their sightes
by looking on the blacke Loade-stone. Va-
nicornes being gluttied with brousing on
roots of Licquoris, sharpe their stomacks
with crushing bitter grasse.

Alexander vouchsafed as well to smile at the croked pic-
ture of Vulcan, as to wonder at the curious counterfeite of
Venus. The minde is sometimes delighted as much with
small trifles as with sumptuous triumphs, and as wel pleased
with hearing of Pans homely fancies, as of Hercules re-
nowmed laboures.

Syllie Baucis coulde not serue Iupiter in a siluer plate, but
in a wooden dish. Al that honour Esculapius, decke not his
shrine with Iewels. Apollo giues Oracles as wel to the poore
man for his mite, as to the rich mā for his treasure. The stone
Echites is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue,
and giftes are not to be measured by the worth, but by the
will. *Misen* that vnskilfull Painter of Greece, aduentured to
giue vnto *Darius* the shielde of Pallas, so roughlie shadowed,
as he smiled more at the follie of the man, then at the im-
perfection of his arte. So I present vnto your honour the tri-
umph of time, so rudelie finished, as I feare your honour wil
rather frowne at my impudencie, then laugh at my ignoran-
cie: But I hope my willing minde shal excuse my slender skill,
and your honours curtesie shadowe my rashnes.

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

They which feare the biting of vipers doe carie in their hands the plumes of a Phoenix. Phydias drewe Vulcan sitting in a chaire of Iuory. Cæsars Crow durst neuer cry, *Aue*, but whē she was peaked on the Capitoll. And I seeke to shroude this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your honours patronage, doubting the dint of such inuenomed vipers, as seeke with their flaunderours reproches to carpe at al, being oftentimes, most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your honours renowned valure, and vertuous disposition shall be a sufficient defence to protect me from the Poysoned tongues of such scorning Sycophants, hoping that as Iupiter vouchsafed to lodge in Philemons thatched Cotage: and Phillip of Macedon, to take a bunche of grapes of a country pefant: so I hope your honour, measuring my worke by my will, and wayghing more the mind than the matter, will when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy, with Minerua, vnder your golden Target couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope

I rest, wishing vnto you, and the vertuous
Countesse your wife: such happy suc-
cesse as your honours can de-
fire, or I imagine.

Your Lordships most due & fully to com-
mande: Robert Greene.





THE HISTORIE OF DORASTUS AND FAWNIA.



Among al the Passions wherewith humane mindes are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despight, as þ infecti-
ous soare of Jealousie: for all other griefes are eyther to bee appeased with sensible per-
suasions, to be cured with wholesome coun-
sel, to be reliued in want, or by tract of time
to be worne out, (Jealousie only excepted) which is so sawled with
suspittous doubttes, and pinching mistrust, that whoso seekes by
friendly counsaile to rase out this hellish passion, it forthwith sus-
pecteth that he geueth this aduise to couer his owne guiltinesse.
Yea, who so is payned with this restlesse torment doubteth all,
distrusteth him-selfe, is alwayes frosen with feare, and fired with
suspition, hauing that wherein consisteth all his ioy, to be the bree-
der of his miserie. Yea, it is such a heauy enemy to that holy estate
of matrimony, sowing betweene the married couples such deadly
seedes of secret hatred, as Loue being once rased out by spightful
distrust, there oft ensueth bloudy reuenge, as this ensuing Hysto-
rie manifestly proueth: wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed
by causelesse Jealousie) procured the death of his most loving and
loyall wife, and his owne endlesse sorow and misery.

In the Countrey of Bohemia there raygned a King called
Pandosto, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes,
and bountifull curtesie towardes his friendes in peace, made him
to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandosto had to
Wife a Ladie called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by educa-
tion, faire by nature, by vertues famous, so that it was hard to
iudge whether her beaucie, fortune, or vertue, wanne the greatest

The Hystorie of

commendations. These two lincked together in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content, that their Subiects greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bene married long, but Fortune (willing to increase their happines) lent them a sonne, so adorne with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the Childe greatly augmented the loue of the parentes, and the ioy of their commons: in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made Bonafires and triumphs throughout all the Kingdome, appointing Justes and Turneyes for the honour of their young Prince: whether resorted not only his Nobles, but also diuers Kings and Princes which were his neighbours, willing to shewe their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to win fame and glory by their promesse and valour. Pandosto, whose minde was fraught with princely liberality, entertayned the Kings, Princes, and noble men with such submisse curtesie, and magnifical bounty, that they all sawe how willing he was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall feast for his Subiects, which continued by the space of twentie dayes: all which time the Justes and Turneyes were kept to the great content both of the Lordes & Ladies there present. This solemne triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leaue of Pandosto and Bellaria: the young sonne (who was called Garinaster) was nursed vp in the house, to the great ioy and content of the parents. Fortune enuious of such happy successe, willing to shewe some signe of her inconstancie, turned her wheele, and darkened their bright sun of prosperitie, with the mistie cloudes of mishap and misery. For it so happened that Egistus King of Syccilia, who in his youth had bene brought vp with Pandosto, desirous to shewe that neither tracte of time, nor distance of place could diminish their former friendship, prouided a nauie of ships, and sailed into Bohemia to visite his old friend and companion, who hearing of his arriual, went himselfe in person, and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lordes and Ladies, to meete Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very louingly, protesting that nothing in the world could haue happened more acceptable to him then his comming, wishing his wife to welcome his olde friend and acquaintance: who (to shewe how she liked him whom her husband loued) inter-

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Dorastus and Fawnia.

dayned him with such familiar curtesie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to bee verie well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embraced eche other, they mounted againe on horsebacke, and rode toward the Citie, deuising and recounting, howe being children they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was recepued with triumphs and shewes in such sort, that he marvelled how on so small a warning they could make such preparation. Passing the streetes thus with such rare sightes, they rode on to the Pallace, where Pandosto entertained Egistus and his Sycilians with such banqueting and sumptuous cheare, so royally, as they all had cause to comend his princely liberality, yea, the verie basest slaue that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vled with such curtesie, y^e Egistus might easily perceiue how both hee and his were honored for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curtesie, willing to shew how vnfaignedly shee looued her husband by his friends incertainemēt, vled him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance betraied how her minde was affected towardes him: oftentimes comining her selfe into his bed chamber, to see that nothing should be amis to mislike him. This honest familiarity increased dayly more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a princely and bountifull minde, adorned with sundrie and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and curteous disposition, there grew such a secret uniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: in so much that when Pandosto was busied with such vrgent affaires, that hee could not bee present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him into the Garden, where they two in priuat and pleasant deuises would passe away the time to both their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the minde of Pandosto, draue him into sundry and doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to minde the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comelines and brauerie of his friend Egistus, thinking that Loue was aboue all Lawes, and therefore to be staid with no Law: that it was hard to put fire and flaxe together without burning: that their open pleasures might breede his secreete displeasures. He considered with himselfe that Egistus was a man, and must needes loue: that his wife was a woman,

and

and therefore subject vnto loue, and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These and such like doubtfull thoughtes a long time smothering in his stomacke, beganne at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which increased by suspicion, grewe at last to a flaming Zealousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and to misconstrue of their too priuate familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for disordinate fancy, so that hee began to watch them more narrowly, to see if hee could gette any true or certaine p^{ro}ofe to confirme his doubtfull suspicion. While thus he noted their lookes and gestures, and suspected their thoughtes and meaninges, they two scely soules who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent, frequented daily eache others companie, which draue him into such a franticke passion, that he beganne to beare a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowring countenaunce to Bellaria, who marueiling at such vnaccustomed frowns, began to cast beeyond the Moone, and to enter into a thousand sundrie thoughtes, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, vntil such time as she might find fit opportunitie to demaund the cause of his dumps. In the meane time Pandosto's minde was so farre charged with Zealousy, that he did no longer doubt, but was assured (as he thought) that his Friend Egistus had entered a wrong pointe in his tables, and so had played him false play: wherby so desirous to reuenge so great an iniury, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire and friendly countenance: and so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the trick of a foe. Deuising with himself a long time how he might best put away Egistus without suspicion of treacherous murder, hee concluded at last to poison him: which opinion pleasing his humour, he became resolute in his determination, and the better to bring the matter to passe he called vnto him his cupbearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising to him for the performance thereof, to geue him a thousande crownes of yearely reuenues: his cupbearer eyther being of a good conscience, or willing for fashion sake, to deny such a bloody request, began with great reasons to perswade Pandosto from his determinate mischief: shewing him what an offence murder was to the Gods: how such vnnaturall actions did more displease the heauens, than men,

Some pages

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neweide of pity, commanded that without delay it should bee put in the boat, hauing neither saile nor other to guid it, and so to bee carried into the midst of the sea, and there left to the wind & waue as the destinies please to appoint. The very shipmen seeing the sweete countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the King of rigor, and to pity the childes hard fortune: but feare constrayned them to that which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the boat, and with a few greene bows made a homely cabben to shroud it as they could from wind and weather: hauing thus trimmed the boat they tied it to a ship, and so haled it into the mayne Sea, and then cut in sunder the coarde, which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mighty tempest, which tossed the little Boate so vehemently in the waues, that the shipmen thought it coulde not continue longe without sincking, yea the storme grewe so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shoare. But leauing the Childe to her fortunes. Againe to Pandosto, who not yet gluttred with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his Wiues calamitie. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellors, hee called her for the more reproch into open Court, where it was objected against her, that she had committed adulterie with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to poyson Pandosto her hus band, but their pretence being partely spied, shee counselled them to flie away by night for their better safety. Bellaria, who standing like a prisoner at the Barre, feeling in her selfe a cleare Conscience to withstand her false accusers: seeing that no lesse then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bolde, and desired that she might haue Lawe and Justice, for mercy shee neyther craued nor hoped for, and that those periured wretches, which had falsly accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. But Pandosto, whose rage and Jealousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease: tolde her, that for her accusers they were of such credite, as their wordes were sufficient witnessse, and that the sodaine & secret flight of Egistus, & Franion confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her parte to deny such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in forswearing the fact, since shee had past all shame in committing the fault: but her stale countenaunce should stand for no coyne, for as the Bastard which

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she bare was serued, so she should with some cruell death be requi-
red. Bellaria no whit dismayed with this rough reply, tolde her
husband Pandosto, that he spake vpon choller, and not consci-
ence: for her vertuous life had beene euer such, as no spot of sus-
pition could euer staine. And if she had borne a frendly counte-
daunce to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friende, and not
for any lusting affection: therefore if she were condemned with-
out any further prooue, it was rigour, and not Law. The noble
men which sate in iudgement, said that Bellaria spake reason, and
intreated the king that the accusers might be openly examined,
and swozne, and if then the euidence were such, as the Iury might
finde her guilty (for seeing she was a Prince) she ought to be cry-
ed by her peeres, then let her haue such punishment as the extre-
mitie of the Law will assigne to such malefactors. The king pre-
sently made ans were, that in this case he might, and would dis-
pence with the Law, and that the Iury being once pannelled, they
should take his word for sufficient euidence, otherwise he would
make the proudest of them repent it. The noble men seeing the
king in choler, were all whist, but Bellaria, whose life then hung
in the ballaunce, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then momen-
tarie death, tolde the king, if his furie might stand for a Law, that
it were vaine to haue the Iury yeeld their verdict, and therefore
she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the king that for the
loue he bare to his young sonne Garinter, whome she brought
into the world, that hee would graunt her a request, which was
this, that it would please his maiestie to send sixe of his noble men
whome he best trusted, to the Ile of Delphos, there to enquire
of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adultery
with Egistus, or conspired to popson him with Franion: and if
the God Apollo, who by his deuine essence knew al secrets, gaue
ans were that she was guiltie, she were content to suffer any tor-
ment, were it neuer so terrible. The request was so reasonable,
that Pandosto could not for shame deny it, unlesse he would be
counted of all his subiects more wilfull then wise, he therefore a-
greed, that with as much speede as might be there should be cer-
taine Embassadors dispatched to the Ile of Delphos: and in the
meane season he commanded that his wife should be kept in close
prison. Bellaria hauing obtained this graunt, was now more
careful

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carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then sorrowfull for her owne mishap. For of that she doubted: of her selfe shee was assured, knowing if Apollo should giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the hart, yet the sentence should goe one her side. Such was the clearenes of her minde in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicious head still remained in one song) chose out six of his Nobility, whom hee knew were scarce indifferent men in the Queenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, sent them to Delphos: they willing to fulfill the Kinges command, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the Iland, dispatched their affaires with as much speede as might be, and embarked themselves to this voyage, which (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soone ended. For within three weekes they arriued at Delphos, where they were no sooner set on lande, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice to the G D D, and giftes to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craued an aunswere of their demaund: they had not long kneeled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loude voice saide: Bohemians, what you finde behinde the Alter take, and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle founde a scroule of parchment, wherein was written these words in letters of Golde.

The Oracle.

Suspition is no prooffe: Iealousie is an ynequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaste: Egistus blamelesse: Franion a true
subiect: Pandosto treacherous: his Babe an innocent,
and the King shall liue without an heire: if that which
is lost be not founde.

As soone as they had taken out this scroule, the Priest of the
God commanded them that they should not presume to read
it, before they came in the presence of Pandosto: vnlesse they would
incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords care-
fully obeying his command, taking their leaue of the Priest,
with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to
their ships, and as soone as wind would permit them, sailed toward
Bohemia,

Bohemia, whither in short time they safely arrived, & with great triumph issuing out of their Ships, went to the Kinges pallace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men: Pandosto no sooner saw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, asking what newes: they tolde his Maiestie that they had receiued an aunswere of the God written in a scroule, but with this charge, & they should not reade the contents before they came in the presence of the King, and with that they deliuered him the parchment: but his Noble men intreated him that sith therein was contayned either the safetie of his Wiues life, and honesty, or her death, and perpetuall infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons assembled in the iudgement Hall, where the Queene brought in as prysoner, should heare the contents: if shee were found guilty by the Oracle of the God, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigour proceeded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then shee should bee cleared before all, sith she had bene accused openly. This pleased the King so, that he appointed the day, and assembled all his Lords and Commons, and caused the Queene to be brought in before the Iudgement seate, commaunding that the inditement shoulde bee read, wherein she was accused of adultery with Egistus, and of conspiracy with Franion: Bellaria hearing the contentes, was no whit astonished, but made this chearefull aunswer.

[If the deuine powers bee priuy to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blushe, and my vnspotted life shall staine spightfully discredit. For although lying Report hath sought to appeach mine honor, and Suspicion hath intended to soyle my credit with infamie: yet where Vertue keepeth the Forte, Report and Suspicion may assaile, but neuer sack: how I haue led my life before Egistus comming, I appeale Pandosto to the Gods, & to my conscience. What hath passed betwixt him and me, the Gods onely know, and I hope will presently reueale: that I loued Egistus I can not denie, that I honored him I shame not to confesse: to the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for Franion, I can neither accuse him, nor excuse him: for I was not priue

prinie to his departure, and that this is true which I haue heere rehearsed, I referre my selfe to the deuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no sooner sayd, but the King commaunded that one of his Dukes should reade the contentes of the scroule: which after the commons had heard, they gaue a great shout, reioysing and clapping their hands that the Queene was cleare of that false accusation: but the King whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his witlesse furie, and false suspected Jealousie, was so ashamed of his rashe folly, that he intreated his nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgiue, and forget these iniuries: promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall and louing hus band, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and Franion: reuealing then before them all the cause of their secrete flighte, and how treacherously hee thought to haue practised his death, if the good minde of his Cupbearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was worde brought him that his young sonne Garinter was sodainly dead, which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged before with extreame ioy, and now suppressed with heauie sorowe, her vitall spirites were so stopped, that she fell downe presently dead, & could be neuer reuiued. This sodaine sight so appalled the Kinges Sences, that he lank from his seate in a sou'd so as he was fayne to be carried by his nobles to his Pallace, where hee lay by the space of three dayes without speache: his commons were as men in dispaire, so diuersly distressed: there was nothing but mourning and lamentation to be heard throughout al Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadowes, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speache, who as in a fury brayed out these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witnesse then conscience? What thoughts more sower then suspicion? What plague more bad then Jealousie? Unnaturall actions offend the Gods, more than men, and causelesse crueltie neuer escapes without reuenge:

venge: I haue committed such a bloody fact, as repent I may, but recall I cannot: Ah Jealousie, a hell to the minde, and a horror to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrensie, a greater plague than madnesse. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutishe crueltie: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with flanderous suspicion: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray, and yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandocto is the man that hath committed the faulte: why should Garinter, seely childe, abide the paine? Well sith the Gods meane to prolong my dayes, to increase my dolour, I will offer my guiltie bloud a sacrifice to those sackles soules, whose liues are lost by my rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a Rapier, to haue murdered himselfe, but his Deeres being present, stayed him from such a bloody acte: perswading him to think, that the Common-wealth consisted on his safetie, and that those sheepe could not but perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if hee would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subiects, and to put such fancies out of his minde, sith in sores past help, salues doe not heale, but hurt: and in thinges past cure, care is a corrasie: with these and such like perswasions the Kinge was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that assoone as hee could goe abroad, hee caused his wife to bee embalmed, and wrapped in lead with her young sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein hee intombed them both, making such sollemne obsequies at her funeral, as at Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepassed folly: causing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe in letters of Golde:

The Epitaph.

Here lyes entombde Bellaria faire,

Falsly accused to be vchaste:

Cleared by Apollos sacred doome,

Yet slaine by lealonsie at last.

What ere thou be, that passest by,

Curse him that causae this Queene to die.

This

This Epitaph being ingrauen, Pandosto would once a day re-
paire to the Tombe, and there with watry plaintes bewaile
his misfortune: coueting no other companion but sorowe, nor no
other harmonie, but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous
passions, at last let vs come to shewe the tragicall discourse of the
younge infant.

Who being tossed with Winde, and Waue, floated two
whole daies without succour, readie at euery puffe to bee
drowned in the Sea, till at last the Tempest ceased, and the little
boate was driuen with the tyde into the Coast of Sycilia, where
sticking vppon the sandes, it rested. Fortune minding to be wan-
ton, willing to shewe that as she hath wrinkles on her browes: so
shee hath dimples in her cheekes: thought after so many sower
lookes, to lend a fayned smile, and after a puffing storme, to bring
a pretty calme: shee began thus to dally. It fortun'd a poore mer-
cenary Sheepeheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his living by
other mens flockes, missed one of his sheepe, and thinking it had
strayed into the couert, that was hard by, sought perdy diligently
to find that which he could not see, fearing either that the Wolves,
or Eagles had vndone him (for hee was so poore, as a sheepe was
halfe his substance) wandered downe toward the Sea cliffes, to
see if perchance the sheepe was browsing on the sea Iuy, where
on they greatly doe feede, but not finding her there, as he was rea-
dy to returne to his flocke, hee heard a childe crie: but knowing
there was no house nere, he thought he had mistake y^e sound, & y^e it
was the bleatynge of his Sheepe. Wherefore looking more nar-
rowely, as he cast his eye to the Sea, he spyed a little boate, from
whence as he attentiuely listened, he might heare the cry to come:
standing a good while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, and
wading to the boate, as he looked in, he saw the little babe lying al-
alone, ready to die for hunger and colde, wrapped in a Mantle of
Scarlet, richely imbrodered with Golde, and hauing a chayne a-
bout the necke. The Sheepeheard, who before had neuer scene so
faire a Babe, nor so riche Jewels, thought assuredly, that it was
some little God, and began with great deuotion to knock on his
brest. The Babe, who wythed with y^e head, to seeke for the pay,
began againe to cry a fressh, whereby the poore man knew that it
was

was a Childe, which by some sinister meanes was driuen thither by distresse of weather: maruailing how such a seely infant, which by the Gantle, and the Chayne, could not be but borne of Noble Parentage, should be so hardly crossed with deadly mishap. The poore shepheard perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, took pitie of the childe, and determined with himselfe to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthinesse of birth: for his ability coulde not afforde to foster it, though his good minde was willing to further it. Taking therefore the Childe in his armes, as he foulded the mantle together, the better to defend it from colde, there fell downe at his fote a very faire and riche purse, wherein he founde a great summe of golde: which sight so reuiued the shepheards spirits, as he was greatly rauished with ioy, and daunted with feare: Joyfull to see such a summe in his power, and feareful if it should be knowne, that it might breede his further daunger. Necessitie wisht him at the least, to retaine the Golde, though he would not keepe the childe: the simplicity of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull bryberie. Thus was the poore manne perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, but at last the couetousnesse of the coyne ouercame him: for what will not the greedy desire of Golde cause a man to doe? So that he was resolved in himselfe to foster the child, and with the summe to relieue his want: resting thus resolute in this point, he left seeking of his sheepe, and as couertly, and secretly as he coulde, went by a by-way to his house, least any of his neighbours should perceauie his carriage: as soone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the childe began to crie, which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a pong babe in his armes, began to bee somewhat ielousse, yet maruailing that her husband should be so wanton abroad, sith he was so quiet at home: but as women are naturally giuen to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard: beganne to crow against her goodman, and taking vp a cudgel (for the most maister went breeches) sware solemnly that shee would make clubs trumps, if hee brought any bastard brat within her dores. The goodman seeing his wife in her maiestie with her mace in her hand, thought it was time to bowe for feare of blowes, & desired her to be quiet, for there was non such matter: but if she could holde her peace, they were made for eyer and with that

Dorastus and Fawnia.

... he told her the whole matter, how he had found the child
 in a little boat, without any succour, wrapped in that costly
 mantle, and having that rich chaine about the neck: but at last
 when he shewed her the purse full of gold, she began to simper
 something sweetely, and taking her husband about the neck,
 kissed him after her homely fashion: saying that she hoped God
 had seene their want, and now ment to relieue their poverty,
 and seeing they could get no children, had sent them this little
 babe to be their heire. Take heede in any case (quoth the shep-
 herd) that you be secret, and blabbe it not out when you meete
 with your gossippes, for if you doe, we are like not only to
 loose the Golde and Jewels, but our other goodes and liues.
 Tush (quoth his wife) profit is a good hatch before the doore:
 feare not, I haue other things to talke of then of this: but I
 pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Jewels, least
 by any mishap it be spied. After that they had set all things in
 order, the shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and
 the good wife learned to sing lullaby at home with her yong
 babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket in sted of a rich mantle:
 nourishing it so cleanly and carefully as it began to bee a lolly
 girle, in so much that they began both of them to be very fond
 of it, seeing, as it waxed in age, so it increased in beauty. The
 shepheard euery night at his coming home, would sing and
 daunce it on his knee, and prattle, that in a short time it be-
 gan to speake and call him Dad, and her Mamma: last when
 it grew to ripe yeeres, that it was about seuen yeares olde,
 the shepheard left keeping of other mens sheepe, and with the
 money he found in the purse, he bought him the lease of a pret-
 ty farme, and got a smal flocke of sheepe, which when Fawnia
 (for so they named the child) came to the age of ten yeeres, hee
 set her to keepe, and shee with such diligence performed her
 charge as the sheepe prospered marvellously vnder her hand.
 Fawnia thought Porrus had ben her father, and Mopsa her
 mother, (for so was the shepheard and his wife called) honou-
 red and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the neigh-
 bours praised the dutifull obedience of the child. Porrus
 grew in short time to bee a man of some wealth, and credite:
 for fortune so favoured him in having no charge but Fawnia,

that he began to purchase land, intending after to
giue it to his daughter: so that diuerse rich farmers sonnes
came as woers to his house: for Fawnia was something clea-
ly attired, beeing of such singular beautie and excellent witte,
that whoso sawe her, would haue thought shee had bene some
heauenly nymph, and not a mortal creature: in so much, that
when she came to the age of fiftene yeeres, shee so increased
with exquisite perfection both of body and minde, as her natu-
ral disposition did bewray that she was borne of some high pa-
rentage: but the people thinking she was daughter to the she-
phard Porrus; rested only amazed at hir beauty and wit: yea
she won such fauour and commendations in euery mans eye,
as her beautie was not onely praysed in the countrey, but also
spoken of in the Court: yet such was her submisse modestie,
that although her praise daily increased, her mind was no whit
puffed vp with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a coun-
try maide and the daughter of a poore shepheard. Euery day
she went forth with her sheepe to the field, keeping them with
such care and diligence, as all men thought she was verie pain-
full, defending her face from the heat of the sunne with no o-
ther vale, but with a garland made of bowes and flowers:
which attire became her so gallantly, as shee seemed to bee the
Goddesse Flora her selfe for beauty. Fortune, who at this
while had shewed a frendly face, began now to turne her back,
and to shewe a lowering countenance, intending as she had gi-
uen Fawnia a slender checke, so she would giue her a harder
mate: to bring which to passe, she layd her traine on this wise.
Egistus had but one only son called Dorastus, about y age of
twenty yeeres: a Prince so decked and adorned with the
giftes of nature: so fraught with beauty and vertuous quali-
ties, as not onely his father ioyed to haue so good a sonne, & all
his commons reioyced that God had lent them such a noble
Prince to succede in the Kingdom. Egistus placing all his
ioy in the perfection of his sonne: seeing that hee was now ma-
riage-able, sent Embassadors to the King of Denmarke, to
intreate a marriage betweene him and his daughter, who wil-
lingly consenting, made answer, that the next spring, if it please
Egistus with his sonne to come into Denmarke, hee doubted
not

not, but they shoulde agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, though convenient in the meane time to breake with his sonne: finding therefore on a day fit opportunity he spake to him in these fatherly tearmes.

Dorastus, thy youth warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine age to prouide the best. Opportunities neglected, are signes of folly: actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance: thou art young, and I olde: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot yet conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thee as a father, hoping thou wilt obey as a childe. Thou seest my white haire are blossomes for the graue, and thy freshe colour fruite for time and fortune, so that it behooueth me to thinke how to dye, and for thee to care how to liue. My crowne I must leaue by death, and thou enjoy my Kingdome by succession, wherein I hope thy vertue and prowesse shall bee such, as though my subiectes want my person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. That nothing either may faile to satisfie thy minde, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thee well married before I die, and thou become olde.

Dorastus who from his infancy, delighted rather to die with Mars in the fiewe, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber: fearing to displease his father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent answer.

Sir, there is no greater bond then duetie, nor no straiter law then nature: disobedience in youth is often galled with despiht in age. The commaund of the father ought to be a constraint to the childe: so parentes willes are lawes, so they passe not all lawes: may it please your Grace therefore to appoint whome I shall loue, rather then by deniall I should be appeached of disobedience: I rest content to loue, though it bee the only thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his sonne to flie farre from the marriage, began to be somewhat chollerike, and therefore made him this harte answer.

The Hystorie of

ture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each lim
so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection,
commending him so long, till she found her selfe faultie, and
perceiued that if she waded but a little further, she might flippe
ouer her shooes: shee therefore seeking to quench that fire
which neuer was put out, went home, and faining her selfe not
well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts
in her head, she could take no rest: for if she waked, she begā to
call to minde his beautie, and thinking to beguile such
thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection: pest-
red thus with these vnaacquainted passions, she passed the night
as she could in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while rode with a stea in his eare)
could not by any meanes forget the sweete fauour of Fawnia,
but rested so bewitched with her wit and beauty, as hee could
take no rest. He felt fancy to giue the assault, and his woun-
ded mind ready to yeeld as vanquished: yet he began with di-
uers considerations to suppress this frantick affection, calling
to minde, that Fawnia was a shepheard, one not worthy to bee
looked at of a Prince, much lesse to bee loued of such a poten-
tate, thinking what a discredite it were to himselfe, and what a
griefe it would be to his father, blaming fortune and accusing
his owne follie, that should be bee so fond as but once to cast a
glance at such a country flout. As thus he was raging against
him selfe, Loue, fearing if shee dallied long, to loose her cham-
pion, slept more negligently, and gaue him such a fresh wounde as it
prickt him at the heart, that he was faine to yeeld, mangre his
face, and to forsake the companie and gette him to his cham-
ber: where being solemnly set, hee burst into these passionate
tearmes.

A Dorastus, art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art
cired with these vnaacquainted passions. Veld to fancy,
thou canst not by thy fathers counsaile, but in a frenzie thou
art by iust destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldst
loue, and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. O
deuine Loue, feared of men because honoured of the Gods,
not to be suppressed by wilcome, because not to be comprehen-
ded

Dorastus and Fawnia.

ded by reason: without Lawe, and therefore aboue all Law.
How now Dorastus, why dost thou blaze that with praises, which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why should they curse Loue, that are in Loue?

Blush Dorastus at thy fortune, thy choice, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah Fawnia, sweete Fawnia, thy beaucie Fawnia.

Shamest not thou Dorastus, to name one vnfitte for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Dye Dorastus, Dorastus die, better hadst thou perish with high desires, then liue in base thoughts. Yea but, beaucie must be obeyed, because it is beauty, yet framed of the Gods to feede the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah but he that striveth against Loue, shooteth with them of Scyrum against the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the Steele. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia shal be my fortune, in spite of fortune. The Gods aboue disdain not to loue womē beneath. Phoebus liked Sibilla, Iupiter Io, and why not I then Fawnia, one something inferiour to these in birth, but farre superiour to them in beaucie, borne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddesse.

Ah Dorastus, wilt thou so forget thy selfe as to suffer affection to suppress wisdom, and Loue to violate thing honour? How lower will thy choice be to thy father, sorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a grieffe, most glad some to thy foes? Subdue then thy affections, and cease to loue her whome thou couldest not loue, vnlesse blinded with too much loue. Tush I talke to the wind, and in seeking to prevent the causes, I further the effectes. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day followe content, not counsaile. Doe Dorastus, thou canst but repent: and with that his Page came into the chamber, whereupon hee ceased from his complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so poore Fawnia was diuersly perplexed: for the next morning getting vp very early, shee went to her sheepe, thinking with hard

hard labours to passe away her new conceived amours, beginning very busily to drine them to the field, and then to shift the foldes, at last (weatied with toyle) she late her down, where (poore soule) she was more tryed with fond affections: for loue beganne to assault her, in so much that as she late vpon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne folly in these tearmes.

Infortunate Fawnia, and therefore infortunate because Fawnia, thy shepherds hooke she weth thy poore state, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard hauke must soare so hie as the Hobbie, no fowle gaze against the Sunne but the Eagle, actions wrought against nature reape despight, and thoughtes about Fortune disdainne.

Fawnia, thou art a sheheard, daughter to poore Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stande, if thou climbe thou art sure to fall. The Verb Anita growing higher then sixe ynches becommeth a weede. Nylus flowing more then twelue cubits procureth a dearth. Daring affections that passe measure, are cut shorte by time or fortune: suppress then Fawnia those thoughtes which thou mayest shame to expresse. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord, who will commaund by power, and constraine by force.

Dorastus, ah Dorastus is the man I loue, the worse is thy hap, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at flyes, Will Cedars stoupe to brambles, or mighty Princes wake at such homely trulles. No, no, thinke this, Dorastus disdainne is greater then thy desire, hee is a Prince respecting his honor, thou a beggars brat forgetting thy calling. Cease then not onely to say, but to thinke to loue Dorastus, and dissemble thy loue Fawnia, for better it were to dye with griefe, then to liue with shame: yet in despight of loue I will sigh, to see if I can sigh out loue. Fawnia somewhat appeasing her griefes with these pithie perswasions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her sheepe, and to keepe them from straying into the corne, suppressing her affection with the due consideration of her base estate, and with the impossibilitie of her loue, thinking it were frenzy, not fancy, to couet that which

the

Dorastus and Fawnia,

the very destinies did deny her to obtrine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passions: for loue so fiercely assailed him, that neither companie, nor musicke could mitigate his martirdome, but did rather far the more increase his maladie: shame would not let him craue counsaile in this case, nor feare of his Fathers displeasure reueyle it to any secreete friend: but hee was faine to make a Secretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughtes with his owne troubled mind. Lingring thus awhile in doubtfull suspence, at last stealing secretly from the court without either men or Page, hee went to see if hee coulde espie Fawnia walking abroad in the field: but as one hauing a great deale more skill to retriue the partridge with his spaniels, then to hunt after such a straunge pray, he sought, but was little the better: which crosse lucke draue him into a great choler, that he began both to accuse loue and fortune. But as he was readie to retire, he sawe Fawnia sitting all alone vnder the side of a hill, making a garland of such homely flowres as the fields did afford. This sight so reuiued his spirites that he dyed we nigh, with more iudgement to take a view of her singular perfection, which hee found to bee such, as in that countrey attyre shee stained al the courtlie Dames of Sicilia. While thus he stood gazing with pearcing lookes on her surpassing beautie, Fawnia cast her eye aside, and spied Dorastus, with sudden sight made the poore girle to blush, and to dye her chystal cheeks with a vermillion red: which gaue her such a grace, as she seemed farre more beautiful. And with that she rose vp, saluting the Prince with such modest curtesies, as he wondered how a country maid could afford such courtly behauiour. Dorastus, repaying her curtesie with a smiling countenance, began to parlie with her on this manner.

FAire maide (quoth he) either your want is great, or a shepherds life very swæte, that your delight is in such country labors. I can not conceiue what pleasure you should take, vlesse you meane to imitate the nymphes, being you, selfe so like a Nymph. To put me out of this doubt, shew me what is to be commended in a shepherdes life, and what pleasures

pleasures you haue to counteruaile these drudging laboures. Fawnia with blushing face made him this ready aunswere.

Sir, what richer state then content, or what sweeter life then quiet, we shepheards are not borne to honoz, nor beholding vnto beaucie, the lesse care we haue to feare fame or fortune: we count our attire bracie inough if warme inough, and our foodde dainty, if to suffice nature: our greatest enemye is the wolfe: our only care in safe keeping our flock: in stead of courtly ditties we spend the daies with cuntry songs: our amorous conceites are homely thoughtes: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his cuntrye pranks, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in shifting the fouldes, and looking to the Lambes easie labours: oft singing and telling tales, homely pleasures: our greatest welch not to rouet, our honoz not to climbe, our quiet not to care. Enuie looketh not so lowe as shepheards: Shepheards gaze not so high as ambition: we are rich in that we are poore with content, and proud onely in this that we haue no cause to be proud.

This wittie answer of Fawnia so inflamed Dorastus fancy, as he commended him selfe for making so good a choyce, thinking, if her birth were aunswerable to her wit and beauty, that she were a fitte mate for the most famous Prince in the worlde. He therefore beganne to lyste her more narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia, I see thou art content with Cuntry labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures: I commend thy wit, and pity thy want: but wilt thou leaue thy Fathers Cottage, and serue a Courtly Distresse.

Sir (quoth she) beggers ought not to strue against fortune, nor to gaze after honour, least either their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toile for the Court, not in the Court, my nature vsit for their nurture, better liue then in meane degree, than in high disdaine.

Well saide, Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughtes, thou art in loue with some Cuntry Shephearde.

hearde. No sir (quoth she) shepheards cannot loue, that are so simple,
and maides may not loue that are so young.

May therefore (quoth Dorastus) maides must loue, because
they are young, for Cupid is a child, and Venus, though olde,
is painted with fresh coloures.

A graunt (quoth she) age may be painted with new shadowes,
and youth may haue imperfect affections: but what arte con-
cealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Dorastus see-
ing Fawnia helde him so harde, thought it was vaine so long
to beate about the bush: therefore he thought to haue giuen
her a fresh charge: but he was so preuented by certaine of his
men, who missing their maister, came passing to seeke him: see-
ing that he was gone forth all alone, yet before they drewe
so nie that they might heare their talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why Fawnia, perhappes I loue thee, and then thou must
needes yelde, for thou knowest I can commaunde and con-
straine. Trueth sir (quoth she) but not to loue: for constrained
loue is force, not loue: and know this sir, mine honesty is such,
as I hadde rather dye then be a Concubine euen to a King,
and my birth is so base as I am vsitte to bee a wife to a poore
farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canst not loue Dorastus?
Yes saide Fawnia, when Dorastus becomes a shepheard, and
with that the presence of his men broke off their parle, so that
he went with them to the palace, and left Fawnia sitting still
on the hill side, who seeing that the night drewe on, shifted her
fouldes, and busied her selfe about other worke to driue away
such fond fancies as began to trouble her braine. But all this
could not preuaile, for the beautie of Dorastus had made such
a deepe impression in her heart, as it could not be worne out
without cracking, so that she was forced to blame her owne
folly in this wise.

Why Fawnia, why doest thou gaze against the Sunne, or
catch at the Winde: starres are to be looked at with the eye,
not reacht at with the hand: thoughts are to be measured by
fortune, not by desire: falles come not by sitting low, but
by climbing too high: what then shall al feare to fall, because some

happe to fall: No lucke commeth by lot, and fortune windeth
 those thredes which the destiny's spin. Thou art fauored
 Fawnia of a prince, and yet thou art so fond to reiect desired fa-
 uours: thou hast deniall at thy tonges end, and desire at thy
 hearts bottome: a womans fault, to spurne at that with her
 foote, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand. Thou lo-
 uest Dorastus, Fawnia, & yet seemest to lower. Take heed, if
 hee retire, thou wilt repent: for vnles hee loue, thou canst but
 dye. Dye then Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but iest: the Lyon
 neuer prayeth on the mouse, nor Faulcons stoupe not to dead
 fables. Sit downe then in sorrow, ceasse to loue, and content
 thy selfe, that Dorastus will vouchsafe to flatter Fawnia,
 though not to fancy Fawnia. Weigh he: Ah foole, it were
 seemelier for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a
 lover, and with that she ceassed from these perplexed passions,
 folding her sheepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But
 such was the incessant sorrow of Dorastus to thinke on the
 witte and beautie of Fawnia, and to see how fond hee was be-
 ing a Prince: and how forward she was being a beggar, then
 he began to loose his wonted appetite, to looke pale and wan:
 in stead of mirth, to feede on melancholy: for courtly daunces
 to vse cold dumpes: in so much that not onely his owne men,
 but his father and all the court began to maruaile at his sud-
 den change, thinking that some lingring sickenes had brought
 him into this state: wherfore he caused physicians to come, but
 Dorastus neither would let them minister, nor so much as
 suffer them to see his vyne: but remained stil so oppressed with
 these passions, as he feared in him selfe a farther inconueni-
 ence. His honor wished him to ceasse from such folly, but Loue
 forced him to follow fancy: yea and in despite of honour, loue
 wonne the conquest, so that his hot desires caused him to find
 new deuises, for hee presently made himselfe a shepheards
 coate, that he might goe vnkowne, and with the lesse suspiti-
 on to prattle with Fawnia, and conueied it secretly into a thick
 groue hard ioyning to the Pallace, whether finding fit time,
 and opportunity, he went all alone, and putting off his princely
 apparel, got on those shepheards robes, and taking a great
 booke in his hand (which he had also gotten) he went very an-
 ciently

ciently to finde out the mistres of his affection: but as he went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such vnseemely ragges, he began to smile at his owne folly, and to reprove his fondnesse, in these tearmes.

WELL said Dorastus, thou keepest a right decorum, base desires and homely attires: thy thoughtes are fit for none but a shepheard, and thy apparell such as only become a shepheard. A strang change from a Prince to a peasant: What is it? thy wretched fortune or thy wilful folly? Is it thy cursed destinies? Or thy crooked desires, that appointeth thee this penance? Ah Dorastus thou canst but loue, and vnlesse thou loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet fond foole, choose flowers, not waxes: Diamondes, not peables: Ladies which may honour thee, not shepheards which may disgrace thee. Venus is painted in silkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on disdain, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Dorastus shame not at thy shepheards weede: the heauenly Godes haue sometime earthly thoughtes: Neptune became a Ram, Iupiter a Bul, Apollo a shepheard: they Godes, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuising thus with himselfe, hee drew nigh to the place where Fawnia was keeping her shepe, who casting her eye aside, and seeing such a manerly shepheard, perfectly limmed, and comming with so good a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, & to fauor this pretty shepheard, whom she thought shee might both loue and obtaine: but as shee was in these thoughts, she perceiued then, it was the yong prince Dorastus, wherfore she rose vp, and reuerently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, repaid her curtesie with a sweete kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the batterie.

If thou maruell Fawnia at my strange attyre, thou wouldest more muse at my vnaccustomed thoughtes: the one disgraceth but my outward shape, the other disturbeth my inward senses. I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I

hope thou wilt performe no lesse : I haue fulfilled thy request, and now thou canst but graunt my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus when he ceast to be a Prince, and to become a shepheard, and see I haue made the change, and therefore not to misse of my choice.

TRueth, quoth Fawnia ; but all that weare Cooles are not Monkes : painted Eagles are pictures , not Eagles, Zeuss Grapes were like Grapes , yet shadowes : rich clothing make not princes: nor homely attyre beggers: shepheards are not called shepheardes , because they were hookes and bagges: but that they are boine poore, and liue to keepe sheepe, so this attire hath not made Dorastus a shepheard, but to seeme like a shepheard.

WELL Fawnia, answered Dorastus : were I a shepheard, I could not but like thee, and being a prince I am forst to loue thee. Take heed Fawnia, be not proud of beauties painting, for it is a flower that fadeth in the blossome. Those which disdayne in youth are despised in age : Beauties shadowes are trickt vp with times colours , which being set to drie in the sunne are stained with the sunne, scarce pleasing the sight ere they beginne not to be worzh the sight, not much unlike the herbe Ephemeron, which flourisheth in the morning and is withered before the sunne setting : if my desire were against lawe , thou mightest iustly deny me by reason , but I loue thee Fawnia, not to misuse thee as a Concubine , but to vse thee as my wife : I can promise no more , and meane to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yielded up the forte in these friendly tearmes.

AS Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speeche to confesse : my base birth causeth the one , and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach so far as Kings , and yet my desires reach as high as Princes, I dare not say Dorastus, I loue thee, because

Dorastus and Fawnia.

cause I am a shepherd, but the Gods know I haue honored Dorastus (pardon if I say amisse) yea and loued Dorastus with such dutiful affection as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I yeeld, not ouercome with prayers, but with loue, resting Dorastus handmaid ready to obey his wil, if no prejudice at all to his honour, nor to my credit.

Dorastus hearing this freendly conclusion of Fawnia embraced her in his armes, swearing that neither distance, time, nor aduerse fortune should diminish his affection; but that in despite of the destinies he would remaine loyall vnto death. Having thus plight their troath each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia for that Egistus consent would neuer bee graunted to so meane a match, Dorastus determined as sone as time and opportunity would giue them leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many rich & costly iewels, for the easier cariage, and then to transporte them selues and their treasure into Italy, where they should leade a contented life, until such time as either he could be reconciled to his Father, or els by succession come to the Kingdome. This deuise was greatly praysed of Fawnia, for she feared if the King his father should but heare of the contract, that his furie would be such as no lesse then death would stand for payment: she therefore told him, that delay bred daunger: that many mishaps did fall out betweene the cup and the lip, and that to auoid danger, it were best with as much speed as might be, to passe out of Sycilia, least fortune might preuent their pretence with some newe despight: Dorastus, whom loue picked forward with desire, promised to dispatch his affaires with as great hast, as either time or opportunity would geue him leaue: and so resting vpon this point, after many imbracings and sweete kisses they departed. Dorastus having taken his leaue of his best beloved Fawnia, went to the Grove where hee had his rich apparel, and there vncasing himself as secretly as might be, hiding vp his shepherds attire, till occasion should serue againe to vse it: hee went to the palace, shewing by his merrie countenance, whether the state of his body was amended, or the case of his minde greatly

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greatly reſſeſſed: Fawnia poore ſoule was no leſſe ioyful, that being a ſhepherd, fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince, hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore farmer, to be the wife of a riche King: ſo that ſhe thought euery haure a peere, till by their departure they might preuent danger, not ceasing ſtill to goe euery daye to her ſheepe, not ſo much for the care of her flock, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſee her loue and Lord Dorastus: who oftentimes, when oportunitie would ſerue, repaired thither to feede his fancy with the ſweet content of Fawnias, preſence: and although he neuer went to viſit her, but in his ſhepherds ragges, yet his ofte repaire made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, could him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to keepe his daughter at home, leaſt ſhe went ſo oft to the field that ſhee brought him home a yong ſonne: for they feared that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the yong Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken into a dump at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their good will: hee hyed him home to his wife, and calling her aſide, wꝛinging his handes, and ſhedding forth teares, he brake the matter to her in theſe tearmes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her ſelfe ſo fine, that ſhe will buy repentance too deare. I heare newes, which if they be true, ſome will wiſh they had not produced true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Dorastus the Kings ſonne begins to looke at our daughter Fawnia: which if it be ſo, I will not geue her a halfe penſ for her honeſtie at theſe peeres end. I tell thee wife, now adaiſes beauty is a great ſcale to trap yong men, and faire wordes and ſweete promiſes are two great enemies to a maydens honeſtie: and thou knoweſt where poore men intreate, and cannot obtaine, there Princes may commaund, and wil obtaine. Though Kings ſonnes daunce in nettes, they may not be ſeene: but poore mens faulces are ſpied at a little hole: Well: it is a hard caſe where Kings luſtes are lawes, and that they ſhould binde poore men to that, which they themſelues wilfully breake.

Peace

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Peace husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you say: speake no more then you should, least you heare what you would not, great streames are to be stopped by sleight, not by force: and princes to be perswaded by submission, not by rigor: doe what you can, but no more then you may, least in sauing Fawnias mayde-head, you lose your owne head. Take heede I say, it is ill iesting with edged tooles, and bad sporting with Kinges. The Wolfe had his skinne puld ouer his eares for but looking into the Lions den. Tush wife (quoth he) thou speakest like a foole, if the King should knowe that Dorastus had begotten our daughter with childe (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings furie would be such as no doubt we should both loose our goodes and liues: necessitie therefore hath no lawe, and I will preuent this mischiefe with a newe deuise that is come in my head, which shall neither offend the King, nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the chaine and the iewels that I found with Fawnia, and carrie them to the King, letting him then to vnderstand how she is none of my daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the water alone in a little boate wrapped in a riche Mantle, wherein was inclosed this treasure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his seruice, and we whatsoeuer chaunceth shal be blamelesse. This deuise pleased the good wife very well, so that they determined as soone as they might know the King at leisure, to make him priue to this case. In the meane time Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires, but applyed his matters with such diligence, that he prouided all thinges fitte for their iourney. Treasure and Jewels he had gotten great store, thincking there was no better friend then money in a strange countrey: rich attire he had prouided for Fawnia, and because he could not bring the matter to passe with out the helpe and aduise of some one, he made an old seruant of his called Capnio, who had serued him from his childhood, priue to his affaires: who seeing no perswasions could preuaile to diuert him from his settled determination, gaue his consent and dealt so secretly in the cause, that within short space hee had gotten a ship ready for their passage: the Mariners seeing a fit gale of winde for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delayes,

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least if they pretermitted this good weather, they might stay long ere they had such a fayre winde. Capnio fearing that his negligence should hinder the iourney, in the night time conueyed the trunckes full of treasure into the shippe, and by secrette meanes let Fawnia vnderstand, that the next morning they meant to depart: she vpon this newes slept verie little that night, but gotte vp very early, and wente to her sheepe, looking euery minute when she should see Dorastus, who taried not long, for feare delay might breede daunger, but came as fast as he could gallop, and without any great circumstance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him and rode to the hauen, where the shippe lay, which was not thre quarters of a mile distant from that place. He no sooner came there, but the Harriners were readie with their Cockboate to set them aboard, where being coucht together in a Cabben they past away the time in recounting their old loues, til their man Capnio should come. Porrus who had heard that this morning the King would go abroad to take the ayre, called in haste to his wife to bring him his holyday hose and his best Jacket, that he might goe like an honest substantiall man to tell his tale. His Wife a good cleanly wenche, brought him all things fitte, and spungd him vp very handsomlie, giuing him the chaines and Jewels in a little boxe, which Porrus for the more safety put in his bosom. Hauing thus all his trinkets in a readines, taking his staffe in his hand he had his wife kisse him for good lucke, and so hee went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, fortune (who meant to shewe him a little false play) preuented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chaunce in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a little coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus whome he knewe to be Fawnias Father, going towards the Pallace, being a wylie fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore crost him the way, and aske him whither he was going so earely this morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings son Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little Beautifull, and that his neighbours told him the young
Prince

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Prince had allured her to folly, he went therefore now to complain to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and said, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore manes daughter in that sort: he therefore would doe the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your labour in going to the Pallace, for the King meanes this day to take the aire of the Sea, and to goe aboard of a shippe that lies in the hauen, I am going before, you see, to prouide all things in a redinesse, and if you wil follow my counsaile, turne back with me to the hauen, where I will set you in such a fitte place as you may speake to the King at your pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnios smooth tale, gaue him a thousand thanks for his frendly aduise, and went with him to the hauen, making all the way his complaintes of Dorastus, yet concealing secretlie the chaine and the Jewels. As sone as they were come to the Sea side, the marriners seeing Capnio, came a land with their cock-boate, who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would go see the ship, who unwilling and fearing the worst, because he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuse that he could not brooke the Sea, therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by faire meanes hee could not get him aboard, commaunded the mariners that by violence they should carrie him into the shippe, who like sturdy knaues hoisted the poore shepheard on their backs, and bearing him to the boate, lanced from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betraied durst not crie out, for hee sawe it would not preuaile, but began to intreate Capnio and the mariners to be good to him, and to pittie his estate, hee was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to see the shepheard so afraide, made as much haste as they could, and sette him aboarde. Porrus was no sooner in the shippe, but he saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her: for she had attired her selfe in riche apparell, which, so increased her beauty, that shee resembled rather an Angell then a mortall creature.

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Dorastus and Fawnia, were halfe astonished to see the olde shepherd, maruailing greatly what wind had brought him thither, til Capino told them al the whole discourse: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by pollicie he had not prevented him, and therefore now sith he was abroad, for the auoiding of further danger, it were best to carrie him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuise, and allowed of his counsaile: but Fawnia, (who stil feared Porrus, as her father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should either incurre daunger or displeasure.

The old shephard hearing this hard sentence, that he should on such a sodaine be caried from his Wife, his country and kinnsfolke, into a foraine Lande amongst straungers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreate Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised folly he would giue him leaue to goe home: swearing that hee would keepe all thinges as secret as they could wish. But these protestations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly, but the mariners hoisting their maine sailes waied ankers, and hailed into the deepe, where we leaue them to the fauour of the wind and seas, & returne to Egistus.

Who hauing appointed this day to hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his sonne Dorastus to go sport himselfe, because hee saw that of late hee began to loue: but his men made answer that hee was gone abroade none knew whither, except he were gone to the groue to walke all alone, as his custome was to doe euery day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpes, sent one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine, for at last he returned, but finde him he could not, so that the King went himselfe to goe see the sport: where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, hee asked for his sonne, but hee could not be heard of, which braue the King into a great choler: where vpon most of his Noblemen and other Courtiers, posted abroad to seek him, but they could not heare of him through all Sicilia, onely they missed Capnio his man which againe made

Dorastus and Fawnia.

made the King suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or thre daies being passed, and no newes heard of Dorastus, Egistus began to feare that he was deuoured with some wilde beastes, and vpon that made out a greate troupe of men to go seeke him: who coasted through all the Countrey and searched in euerie daungerous and secrete place, untill at last they mette with a Fisherman that was sitting in a little couert harde by the sea side mending his nettes, when Dorastus and Fawnia tooke shipping: who being examined if he either knewe or heard where the Kings Sonne was, without any secrecie at all reuealed the whole matter, how he was sayled two dayes past, & had in his cōpany his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire Daughter Fawnia. This heaute newes was presently carped to the King, who halfe dead for sorow, commaunded Porrus wife to bee sent for: she being come to the Pallace, after due examination, confessed that her neighbours had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her Daughter: wherevpon, her husband fearing the worst, about two dayes past (hearing the King should goe an hunting) rose early in the morning and went to make his complaine, but since she neither hearde of him, nor saw him. Egistus perceiuing the womans unfeyned simplicity, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, concealing such secret greefe for his Sonnes recklesse follie, that he had so forgotten his honour and parentage, by so base a choise to dishonour his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fel into a quartan feuer, which was so unfit for his aged peeres and complexion, that he became so weake, as the Physicians would graunt him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded either father, countrey, or Kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia, for fortune smyling on this young nouice, lent him so lucky a gale of winde, for the space of a day and a night, that the maryners lay and slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the aire began to ouercast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearfull tempest, as the ship was in danger to be swallowed by with euery sea, the maine mast with the violence of the wind was thown

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ouer boord, the sayles were torne, the tacklings went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three dayes, at which time the Mariners euerie minute looked for death, and the aire was so darkned with cloudes that the Maister could not tell by his compasse in what Coast they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the wind began to cease: the sea to wax calme, and the sky to be cleare, and the Mariners descryed the coast of Bohemia, shooting of their ordnance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arriued at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of good cheare: when they tolde him that the port belonged vnto the cheife Cittie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus began to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the King himself had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe afraid to goe on land, but that Capnio counselled him to chaunge his name and his countrey, vntil such time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this deuise made his case priuy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifully for their paines, and charging them to saye that he was a Gentleman of Trapalonia called Meleagrus. The shipmen willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus, promised to be as secret as they could, or hee might wish, and vpon this they landed in a little village a mile distant from the Cittie, where after they had rested a day, thinking to make prouision for their marriage: the fame of Fawnias beauty was spread throughout all the Cittie, so that it came to the eares of Pandosto: who then being about the age of fifty, had notwithstanding yong and freshe affections: so that he desired greatly to see Fawnia, and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but one man, and how they rested at a very homely house: he caused them to be apprehended as spies, and sent a dozen of his garde to take them: who being come to their lodging, tolde them the Kings message. Dorastus no
whit

Dorastus and Fawnia.

whit dismaied, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the court (for they left Porrus to keepe the stuffe) who being admitted to the Kings presence. Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted his maiestie.

Pandofto amased at the singular perfection of Fawnia, stood halfe astonished, biewing her beauty, so that he had almost forgot himselfe what hee had to doe: at last with stearne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what caused them to land in Bohemia. Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name Meleagrus is a Knight borne and brought vp in Trapalonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The Cause I haue so small a trayne with me, is for that her friends unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to conuey her into Trapalonia: whither as I was sailing, by distresse of weather I was driuen into these coasts: thus haue you heard my name, my country, and the cause of my voyage. Pandofto starting from his seat as one in choller, made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare this smooth tale hath but small truethe, and that thou couerest a foule skin with faire paintings. No doubt this Ladie by her grace and beauty is of her degree more meete for a mighty Prince, then for a simple knight, and thou like a periured traitour hast bereft her of her parents, to their present griefe, and her ensuing sorrow. Till therefore I heare more of her parentage and of thy calling, I wil stay you both here in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whome rested nothing but Kingly valor, was not able to suffer the reproches of Pandofto, but that he made him this answer.

It is not meete for a King, without due proufe to appeach any man of ill behauiour, nor vpon suspicion to inferre beleefe: strangers ought to bee entertained with courtesie, not to bee intreated with crueltie, least being forced by want to put vp iniuries: the Gods reuenge their cause with rigor.

Pandofto hearing Dorastus utter these wordes, commanded that he should straight be committed to prison, vntill such
time

time as they heard further of his pleasure, but as for Fawnia, he charged that she should be entertained in the Court, with such curtesie as belonged to a stranger and her calling. The rest of the shipmen he put into the Dungeon.

Having thus hardly handled the supposed Trapalonians: Pandosto contrarie to his aged yeares began to be somewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, in so much that hee could take no rest, but cast in his old head a thousand new deuises: at last he fell into these thoughtes.

How art thou pestered Pandosto with fresh affections, and unsitte fancies, wishing to possesse with an unwilling mynde, and a hot desire troubled with a cold disdain? Shall thy mynde peele in age to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou maiest be ashamed to reueale to thy self. Ah Fawnia is beautiful, and it is not for thine honour (fond foole) to name her that is thy Captiue, and an other mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand which my hart would faine refuse: playing like the bird bys in Egypt, which hatcheth Serpents, yet feedeth on their egges.

Cush, hot desires turne oftentimes to colde disdain: Loue is brittle, where appetite, not reason beares the sway: Kinges thoughtes ought not to climbe so high as the heauens, but to looke no lower then honour: better it is to pecke at the starres with the young Eagles, then to pray on dead carcases with the Vulture: tis more honourable for Pandosto to dye by concealing Loue, then to enioy such unsitte Loue. Dooth Pandosto then loue? Yea: whome? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhapps, immodest, stragled out of her owne countrie: beautiful, but not therefore chaste: comely in bodie, but perhappes crooked in minde. Cease then Pandosto to looke at Fawnia, much lesse to loue her: be not overtaken with a womans beauty, whose eyes are framed by arte to inamour, whose heart is framed by nature to inchaunt, whose false teares knowe their true times, and whose sweette wordes pearce deeper then sharpe swordes. Here Pandosto ceased from his talke, but not from his loue: for alchough he sought by reason, and wisdom to

to suppress this franticke affection: yet he could take no rest, if beautie of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart. But on a day walking abroad into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his house, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia, vnto whome he vitered these wordes.

Fawnia, I commend thy beauty and wit, and now pittie thy distresse and want: but if thou wilt forsake Sir Meleagrus, whose pouerty, though a knight, is not able to maintaine an estate answerable to thy beauty, and yeld thy consent to Pandosto: I wil both increase thee with dignities and riches. No sir, answered Fawnia: Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by loue, and none but he shal weare me: his sinister mischance shall not diminish my affection, but rather increase my good will: thinke not though your Grace hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare shall make mee yeeld my consent: I had rather be Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plenty, and be Pandostos Concubine. Pandosto hearing the assured answer of Fawnia, would, notwithstanding, prosecute his suite to the uttermost: seeking with faire words and great promises to scale the fort of her chastitie, swearing that if she would graunt to his desire, Meleagrus should not only be set at libertie: but honored in his court amongst his Nobles: but these alluring baytes could not intise her minde from the loue of her true betrothed mate Meleagrus: which Pandosto seeing, he left her alone for that time to consider more of the demand. Fawnia being alone by herselfe, began to enter into these solitarie meditations.

Al infortunate Fawnia, thou seest to desire aboue fortune, is to strine against the Gods, and Fortune! Who gazeth at the sunne weakeneth his sight: they which stare at the skie, fall off into deepe pits: haddest thou rested content to haue beene a shepheard, thou neededst not to haue feared mischance: better had it bene for thee, by sitting lowe, to haue had quiet, then by climbing high to haue fallen into miserie. But alas I feare not mine owne daunger, but Dorastus displeasure. Ah sweete Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a prisoner, by too much
cithwa
loue,

loue, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loued Fawnia thou haddest bene fortunate, shall I then bee false to him that hath forsaken Kingdomes for my cause: no, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honor might be preserved. With that fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased frō her complaints, and went againe to the Pallace, inioying a libertie without content, and profered pleasure with smal ioy. But poore Dorastus lay all this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard restraint, and pained with the burden of colde, and heauie Irons, sorrowing sometimes that his fond affection had procured him this mishappe, that by the disobedience of his parentes, he had wrought his owne despight: an other while cursing the Gods and fortune, that they should crosse him with such sinister chaunce: uttering at last his passions in these words.

Oh unfortunate wretch, boorne to mishappe, now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not worthe for thy base minde to haue had fortune: could the destinies fauour thee, which hast forgot thine honor and dignities: wil not the Gods plague him wth despight that payneth his father with disobedience. Oh Gods, if any fauour or iustice beleft, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia and shrowd her from the tirannies of wretched Pandosto, but let my death free her from mishap, and then welcome death: Dorastus payned with these heauie passions, sorrowed and sighed, but in vaine, for which he vsed the more patience. But againe to Pandosto, who broyling at the heat of unlawfull lust coulde take no rest but still felte his minde disquieted with his new loue, so that his nobles and subiectes marueyled greatly at this sudaine alteration, not being able to coniecture the cause of this his continued care: Pandosto thinking euery hower a peate til he had talked once againe with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his chamber, whither though Fawnia unwillingly comming, Pandosto entertained her very courteously v^{sing} these familiar speaches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto. And, I pray you, what is the cause of this your discontent?

Fawnia

Fawnia are you become lesse wilfull and more tolle to pre-
ferre the loue of a King before the liking of a poore Knight: I
thinke ere this you thinke it is better to be fauoured of a King
then of a subiect.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the body is subiect to victories, but the mind not
to be subdued by conquest, honesty is to be preferred before ho-
nour, and a dramme of faith weigheth downe a tunne of gold.
I haue promised Meleagrus to loue, and will perforce ne-
lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not so brutish in thy choice, as to
refuse the offer of a King, nor so ingrateful as to dispise a good
turne: thou art now in that place where I may commaunde,
and yet thou seest I intreate, my power is such as I may
compell by force; and yet I sue by prayers: Weelde Fawnia thy
loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus shall be set
free, thy countrymen discharged: and thou both loued and ho-
noured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where lust ruleth it is a miserable thing to
be a virgin, but know this, that I will alwaies preferre fame
before life, and rather choose death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate
courage to loue Meleagrus, and a resolution without feare to
hate him, flong away from her in a rage: swearing if in shor-
te time she would not be wonne with reason: he would forget all
courtesie, and compell her to graunt by rigour: but these threa-
tning wordes no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that she still both
displeased and dispised Pandosto. While thus these two lo-
uers stroue, the one to winne loue the other to liue in hate: E-
gistus heard certaine newes by Merchantes of Bohemia,

that

that his sonne Dorastus was imprisoned by Pandosto, which made him feare greatly that his sonne should be but hardly increased: yet considering that Bellaria and hee was cleared by the Oracle of Apollo from that crime wherewith Pandosto had vniustly charged them, hee thought best to send with all speed to Pandosto, that he should set free his sonne Dorastus, and put to death Fawnia and her father Porrus: finding this by the advice of Counsaile the speediest remedy to release his sonne, he caused presently two of his shippes to be rigged and thoroughly furnished with provision of men and victuals, and sent diuers of his nobles, Embassadours into Bohemia: who willing to obey their King, and receiue their yong Prince: made no delays, for feare of danger, but with as much speede as might be, sailed towards Bohemia: the winde and seas fauored them greatly, which made them hope of some good happe, for within thre daies they were landed: which Pandosto no soner heard of their arriual, but hee in person went to meete them, intreating the with such sumptuous and familiar courtelie, that they might well perceiue how soeuer he was for the former injuries hee had offered to their King, and how willing (if it might be) to make amendes. As Pandosto made report to them, how one Meleagrus a Knight of Trapolonia was lately arriued with a Lady called Fawnia in his land, coming very suspitiously, accompanied onely with one seruant, and an olde shepheard. The Embassadours perceiued by the halfe, what the whole tale ment, and began to coniecture, that it was Dorastus, who for feare to bee knowne, had chaunged his name: but dissembling y^e matter, they shortly arriued at the Court, where after they had bin verie solemnly and sumptuously feasted, the noble men of Sicilia being gathered togither, they made reporte of their Embassage: where they certified Pandosto that Meleagrus was sonne and heire to the King Egistus, and that his name was Dorastus: how contrarie to the Kings minde he had priuily conualed away that Fawnia, intending to marrie her, being but daughter to that poore shepheard Porrus: whereupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus might bee murthered and put to death, and that his sonne Dorastus might be sent home in safetie.

fetie. Pandosto hauing attentiuely and with great meruaile heard their Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and to shew him how greatlie he esteemed his labour: although loue and fancy forbade him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of loue hee determined to execute Egistus will without mercy, and therefore he presently sent for Dorastus out of prison. who menuagling at this vnlooked for curtesie, found at his comming to the Kings presence, that which he least doubted of. his fathers Embassadors: who no sooner sawe him, but with great reuerence they honored him: and Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him by him very lovingly in a chaire of estate. Dorastus ashamed that his follie was bewraied, sate a long time as one in a muse, til Pandosto told him the summe of his fathers embassage, which he had no sooner heard, but he was toucht at the quicke, for the cruell sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia: but neither could his sorrow nor perswasions preuaile, for Pandosto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, should bee brought to his presence: who were no sooner come, but Pandosto hauing his former loue turned to a disdainful hate, began to rage against Fawnia in these tearmes.

Thou disdainfull bassal, thou currish kite, assigned by the destinies to base fortune, and yet with an aspiring minde gazing after honor: how durst thou presume, being a beggar, to match with a Prince? By thy alluring lookes to inchant the sonne of a King, to leaue his owne countrie to fulfill thy disordinate lusts. O despightfull minde, a proud heart in a beggar is not vnlike to a great fire in a smal cottage, which warmeth not the house, but burneth it: assure thy selfe thou shalt die, and thou old doating foole, whose follie hath bene such, as to suffer thy daughter to reach aboue thy fortune: looke for no other meede, but the like punishment. But Capnio, thou which hast betrayed the King, and hast consented to the vnlawfull lust of thy Lord and maister, I know not how iustly I may plague thee: death is too easie a punishment for thy falsehood, and to liue (if not in extreme miserie) were not to shew thee equitie. I therefore award that thou shalt haue thine eyes put out, and

continually while thou diest, grinde in a mill like a brute beast. The feare of death brought a sorrowfull silence vpon Fawnia and Capnio, but Porrus seeing no hope of life, burst forth into these speeches.

PAndosto, and ye noble Embassadors of Sicili, seeing without cause I am condemned to die: I am yet glad I haue opportunitie to disburde my conscience before my death: I will tel you as much as I know, and yet no more than is true: whereas I am accused that I haue bene a supporter of Fawnias pride, and shee disdained as a wilde begger, so it is, that I am neither Father vnto her, nor the daughter vnto me. For so it happened that I being a poore shepheard in Sicilia, living by keeping others mens flockes: one of my sheepe straying downe to the sea side, as I went to seeke her, I saw a little boat driuen vpon the shoare, wherein I found a babe of fixe daies olde, wrapped in a mantle of skarlet, hauing about the necke this chaine: I pittying the child, and desirous of the treasure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care nur- sed it vp, and set it to keepe sheepe. Heere is the chaine and the Jewels, and this Fawnia is the childe whome I found in the boate, what shee is, or of what parentage I knowe not, but this I am assured that shee is none of mine.

Pandosto would scarce suffer him to tell out his tale, but that he enquired the time of the yeere, the manner of the boate, and other circumstaunces, which when he found agreeing to his count, he sodainelie leapt from his seate, and kissed Fawnia, wetting her tender cheeks with his teares, and crying my daughter Fawnia, ah swete Fawnia, I am thy Father, Fawnia. This sodaine passion of the King braue them all into a maze, especially Fawnia and Dorastus. But when the King had breathed himselfe a while in this newe ioy, hee rehearsed beefore the Embassadors the whole matter, how hee hadde entreated his wife Bellaria for iealousie, and that this was the childe whome hee sent to floate in the seas.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that she had found such a Father, then Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The
Embassadors

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Embassadors reioyced that their yong prince had made such a choice, that those Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time bin disseuered, should now through perpetual amitie be v-nited and reconciled. The Citizens and subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter, which was supposed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire apparant to his Kingdome) made Bonfires and shoues throughout the Cittie: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Jests and Turnets, to signifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightene daies being past in these princely sports, Pandosto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient Naue to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus, Fawnia, and the Sicilian Embassadors, he sailed towards Sicilia, where he was most princelie entertained by Egistus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his sonnes good happē, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two yong Louers) celebrated the marriage: which was no sooner ended, but Pandosto (calling to mind how first he betrayed his friend Egistus, how his iealousie was the cause of Bellarias death, that contrarie to the law of nature hee had lusted after his owne Daughter) moued with these desperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholie fit, and to close vp the Comedie with a Tragicall stratageme, hee slewe himselfe, whose death being many daies bewailed of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deere friend Egistus, Dorastus taking his leaue of his father,

went with his wife and the dead corps into Bohemia, where after they were sumptuoullie buried, Dorastus ended his daies in contented quiet.

FINIS.

George